

Public golf course planned at former Budd site

Transit America announced last week it plans to develop an 18-hole public golf course at its 214-acre former Budd manufacturing plant on Red Lion Road in Northeastern Philadelphia.

The plan is consistent with a national trend toward redeveloping so-called "brownfields," former industrial sites into productive sites for the community.

Transit America's plan calls for the construction of a regulation-size golf facility, complete with player amenities such as a clubhouse, putting green, and a driving range.

Company officials cited several reasons for the decision and said that they looked at many options to determine the best use for the site. Redeveloping the Red Lion Road facility into a golf course will pro-

vide recreation for area residents, create and preserve open, green space and contribute to the local economy. Community input will continue to play a role as plans proceed.

The former Budd facility, located on the border between Northeast Philadelphia and Lower Moreland Township, began operations during the Second World War, producing

aircraft for the war effort. After the war, production was converted to civilian use, mainly railroad cars. The last production unit rolled out of the gates in the spring of 1987.

Transit America then voluntarily began a thorough environmental assessment of the site, and has been working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on the redevelop-

ment effort.

According to Transit America officials, revitalization of the site by restoring it to productive use is the next challenge. Transit America is committed to making sure that the company's plans are developed and implemented with maximum input from citizens and community leaders, so that its redevelopment efforts can be the best possible

asset for the region. To accomplish this goal, Transit America has initiated a community outreach program, including door-to-door visits with neighbors, to identify issues of local interest.

obtained from
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